Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UNGA, UR

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: SOVIET VIEWS

- 1. USDEL HAD BRIEF INFORMAL BILATERALS WITH SOVIET DEL MONDAY PRIOR TO CONVENING OF OSC, COVERING SEVERAL ISSUES ON OSC AGENDA.
- 2. SOVS DO NOT INTEND TO SAY ANYTHING ON NUCLEAR POWER IN SPACE IN OPENING STATEMENT. THEY BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE AN AGREED TEXT IN OSC REPORT THAT WILL REFLECT COMMITTEE'S FEELINGS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A PROGRAM OF WORK AND THAT WOULD INSTRUCT STSC TO CONDUCT BASIC STUDY OF S&T ASPECTS. TEXT WOULD ALSO REFER TO RELEVANT PARAS OF STSC 1978 REPORT. THE WORKING GROUP WOULD BE DIRECTLY UNDER STSC AND NOT AN INDEPENDENT BODY. STATES WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO SEND SPECIALISTS TO NEXT YEAR'S STSC MEETING TO PARTICIPATE IN S&T STUDY.
- 3. SOVIETS FEEL THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO MENTION LEGAL ASPECTS OF QUESTION AT THIS STAGE AND DO NOT WANT SUBJECT ON LS AGENDA.

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4. SOVS BELIEVE THAT A PARAGRAPH ON SUBJECT COULD BE AGREED FOR GA RESOLUTION (PRESUMABLY IN ANNUAL RESOLUTION NEGOTIATION IN FIRST COMMITTEE) BUT THAT NO EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO PUT SUBJECT ON AGENDA OF GA.

- 5. ON MOON TREATY, SOVS NOW FEEL EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAN BEFORE AGAINST COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND LANGUAGE. THEY EXPECT TO AVOID THIS SUBJECT IN THEIR OPENING STATEMENT AND WILL NOT PUSH FOR COMPLETION OF TREATY AT THIS SESSION OF OSC. SOVS DID NOT REVEAL WHETHER AT BOTTOM LINE THEY WOULD ACCEPT PRESENT TEXT.
- 6. ON UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE: SOVS FEEL THAT NAMING OF A SCIENTIFIC CHAIRMAN AT THIS TIME WOULD BE PREMATURE. THEY ARE AWARE THAT US HAS CANDIDATE IN MIND.
- 7. IN BRIEF EXCHANGE ON OTHER ITEMS SOVS INTIMATED THEY HAVE NO SURPRISES.
- 8. SOVS ASKED IF WE INTENDED TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ASAT DISCUSSIONS, INTIMATING THAT THEY DID NOT. USDEL REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS SUBJECT BUT THAT ANY REPLIES TO QUESTIONS RAISED SHOULD CONFORM TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS ALREADY MADE.
- 9. COMMENT: SOVIETS CLAIMED THAT IN BILATERAL MONDAY MORNING (JUNE 26) CANADIANS AGREED TO BROAD SCENARIO SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND FOR DEALING WITH NUCLEAR POWER QUESTION. CONTENT OF PROPOSALS WAS NOT, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSED WITH CANADA. IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT SOVIETS HAVE A DRAFT RESOLUTION IN THEIR HIP POCKET AND INTEND MOVING QUICKLY WITH IT AS A TACTIC TO MANAGE WHAT IS FOR THEM VERY DIFFICULT ISSUE. WE HAVE SCHEDULED BILATERALS WITH CANADIANS AM JUNE 27. LEONARD

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